



For grades  
**K-1**

# The Bookworm

From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

## Print Awareness

Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. It is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers.

Here are some ways to help your child develop print awareness:

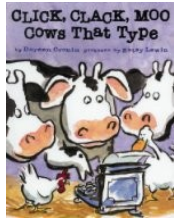
- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Occasionally run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark and a question mark are, and why you read those sentences differently.
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

## Book of the Month

*Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type,*  
by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by  
Betsy Lewin

In this Caldecott Honor story the cows on Farmer Brown's farm find an old typewriter and begin making typewritten demands. Not only will young children find humor and delight in the antics of the farm animals, they will see the power that written words can have.

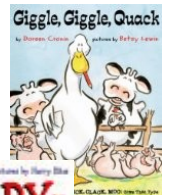


Author Doreen Cronin has written several hilariously funny series of books:

Follow-ups to *Click, Clack, Moo...*  
*Giggle, Giggle, Quack, Click,*  
*Clack, Quackity-Quack,*  
*Dooby Dooby Moo;* and more...

*Diary of a Worm; Diary of a*  
*Spider; Diary of a Fly*

*Wiggle; Bounce; Stretch*



Here are some other good books to help your child develop **print awareness**:

*Tops and Bottoms,* Janet Stevens

*Robot Zot,* Jon Scieszka

*Dear Peter Rabbit,* and *Yours Truly, Goldilocks,*  
Alma Flor Ada

*Can You Make a Scary Face?* Jan Thomas

*First the Egg,* Laura Vaccaro Seeger

*Put It On the List,* Kristen Darbyshire

## More fun with *Click, Clack, Moo*

**Print awareness...** School-age children can practice the power of writing by helping you make grocery or "to do" lists, writing invitations, greeting cards and thank you notes, etc. They can print by hand or type on a computer; they can even use an old typewriter that may be lying around...



**Talk about it...** There are some great words and phrases to talk about in this story:

- The cows go on *strike* until the farmer meets their demands.
- The cows were growing *impatient* with the farmer.
- Farmer Brown was *furious*.
- Duck was a *neutral party*, so he brought the *ultimatum* to the cows.

Here's a great on-line dictionary for kids:

<http://new.wordsmyth.net/>  
(click on "beginner" level)

### Counting Rhyme Game

#### ONE LITTLE HORSE

One little horse went out to play, in the  
barnyard filled with hay.  
He thought it was so much fun, he called  
to his friends, who came on the run.

Two little cows went out to play, in the  
barnyard filled with hay.  
They thought it was so much fun, they  
called more friends, who came on the run.

Continue with this counting rhyme, adding more and more animals, such as 3 pigs, 4 ducks and five chicks. You can have your child act this out in person, or with toy animals or flannelboard cutouts.

## Holiday Tunes!

'Tis the season to sing "Jingle Bells" and other family favorites. Sharing songs is a good way to explore language and different cultures with your child. Music activities can help build vocabulary and improve attention span, concentration and memory. Here's a great website for song favorites:

<http://bussongs.com>



Show your child lots of different musical instruments, and let her play and experiment with some of them. Homemade instruments are cheap and easy to make:

- Shaker: Put rice or beans in a closed container with the lid safely taped in place
- Drum: Use a spoon and a pot, or a wooden spoon and an upside down laundry basket
- Hummer: Use toilet or paper towel roll, cut circle of wax paper that is larger than hole, tape it over hole on one end. Hum into it. For a different sound, paper punch a hole in the side of the roll.

### What your library can do for you...

"Print awareness" is one of the six early literacy skills children should develop in order to become good readers. Your youth services librarian can suggest books and activities that help you support your child's learning at home.

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